

DOCKET NO: 251573US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

MAKOTO NAKAMURA, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: BARRERA, R. M.

SERIAL NO: 10/820,052

:

FILED: APRIL 8, 2004

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2832

FOR: LONG MAGNET, PRODUCTION
METHOD THEREOF, MAGNET ROLLER
AND IMAGE FORMING DEVICE

:

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Notice of Allowance, dated May 15, 2007, Applicants submit the following comments on the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

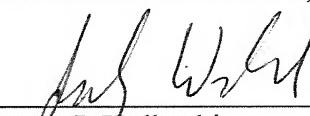
The "Reasons for Allowance" included on page 2 of the Notice of Allowance states that "...the closest prior art of record failed, to teach or reasonably suggest a manufacturing method of a long magnet, comprising: mixing of rare earth magnetic powder, thermoplastic resin particles, fluidity additive, pigment, wax and charge control agent." Applicants respectfully submit that the "Reasons for Allowance" mischaracterizes several of the independent claims.

Independent Claim 34 is the only independent claim that recites a method as stated in the "Reasons for Allowance," while the other independent claims (Claims 1, 16, and 35-38) are directed to a device or apparatus. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Reasons for Allowance should not be limited to a method claim.

Accordingly, a corrected Statement of Reasons for Allowance is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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